

worth looking after there. These, however, the energy and enterprise of our age have disclosed, and the question now is, how shall the wealth of those regions be developed for the advantage of the nation and the benefit of the world at large? I will say one thing here, by way of digression, that there are those who look upon the public debt consequent upon this work with great apprehension, but such gentlemen have not been of these excursionists. [Applause.] They have not looked to the amazing resources of this Government, agricultural, mineral, and otherwise. Now, just think for one moment what amounts of gold and silver have been dug out of these mountains under all the disadvantages of having no great mode of communication, when men had to drag their heavy and ponderous instruments for getting out these minerals over thousands of miles of untracked territory, and yet, sir, they have dug out those precious metals by hundreds of millions. Now, think of the vast chain of mountains, extending from the north of Mexico to the remotest north, running through this great Republic from end to end; and all full of these precious metals, and think when this railway shall be accomplished there, when these great and ponderous instruments so necessary to develop those minerals, shall be taken there by the speed of the railway, and that great mineral region shall be exposed to the enterprise of the American people everywhere with such ease and facility—where the workmen may be fed by railway communication—where all their wants can be so easily supplied—imagine, if you can, the immense wealth that will be developed almost instantly when the railway reaches those regions, and then doubt, if you can, the ability of this nation to encounter any debt whatever. [Applause.] And another thing occurs to me that I have no doubt will take place the moment this great thoroughfare reaches the Pacific Ocean; the whole course of trade and commerce will be changed by which all nations, ancient and modern, have sought the great and rich countries of the East. China and India will be reached in one-half, nay one-third the time we reach them